

In the Specification:

Page 6, after the last paragraph, insert the paragraph:

---

-- The present invention relates to systems and methods for collecting payments in a distributed digital communications environment, such as the Internet, using electronic tokens.

It is known that such digital communications may be implemented using a computer equipped with communications hardware such as a modem, and communications software such as Explorer(TM) or Navigator(TM).

Payments with electronic/digital tokens are known in prior art.

The present invention comprises improvements in such payment means.

The present disclosure does not delve into the details of hardware and software implementation of prior art means, for the sake of clarity.

A1

Further details of prior art payment systems and methods using electronic tokens can be found, for example, in the following patents, which are hereby included by way of reference:

Krsul et al., US Patent 5,839,119 - Method of electronic payments that prevents double spending

Stefic et al., US Patent 6,236,971 - System for controlling the distribution and use of digital works using digital tickets

Rosen, US Patent 6,205,436 - Trusted agents for open electronic commerce where the transfer of electronic merchandise or electronic money is provisional until the transaction is finalized

Christiano, US Patent 5,386,369 - License metering system for software applications--

---